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"Call me Shang-Chi, as my father did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to honor him would bring nothing but dishonor to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

THE MADHOUSE EFFECT

"THE NAME'S RESTON, WITH A 'CLIVE' IN FRONT OF IT. LIKE MY FATHER BEFORE ME, I USED TO SPY FOR HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE."

"BUT PATRIOTISM IS A WORTHLESS IF NOT IDIOTIC SENTIMENT THESE DAYS, SO NOW I PLAY GOD BY FREELANCING, JUDGING FOR MYSELF THE WORTH OF PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS-- REGARDLESS OF THE FLAGS THEY WEAR."

"I'M WRITING THIS ONE DOWN TO CONVINCE MYSELF IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED. SHANG-CHI CLAIMS THAT 'WORDS CANNOT ALTER REALITY,' BUT WHAT DOES HE KNOW? HE'S EATEN TOO MANY FORTUNE COOKIES AS IT IS."

"ANYWAY, IT STARTED ON A LOONY ENOUGH NOTE IN LONDON'S PICCADILLY CIRCUS, WHERE MY OWN MUG WAS JUST ONE OF THE MANY FACES OF MADNESS."

WELL, CLIVE
OLD BOY, IT'S JUST
ABOUT THAT TIME...

"I WAS HANGING OUT IN THIS HUMAN ZOO, YOU SEE, WAITING TO MAKE A CONTACT; ONLY AFTER THAT WOULD I HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE MY LATEST CELESTIAL DETERMINATION."

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

WILLIAM JOHNSON
ARTIST

ERNE CHAN
INKER

JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER

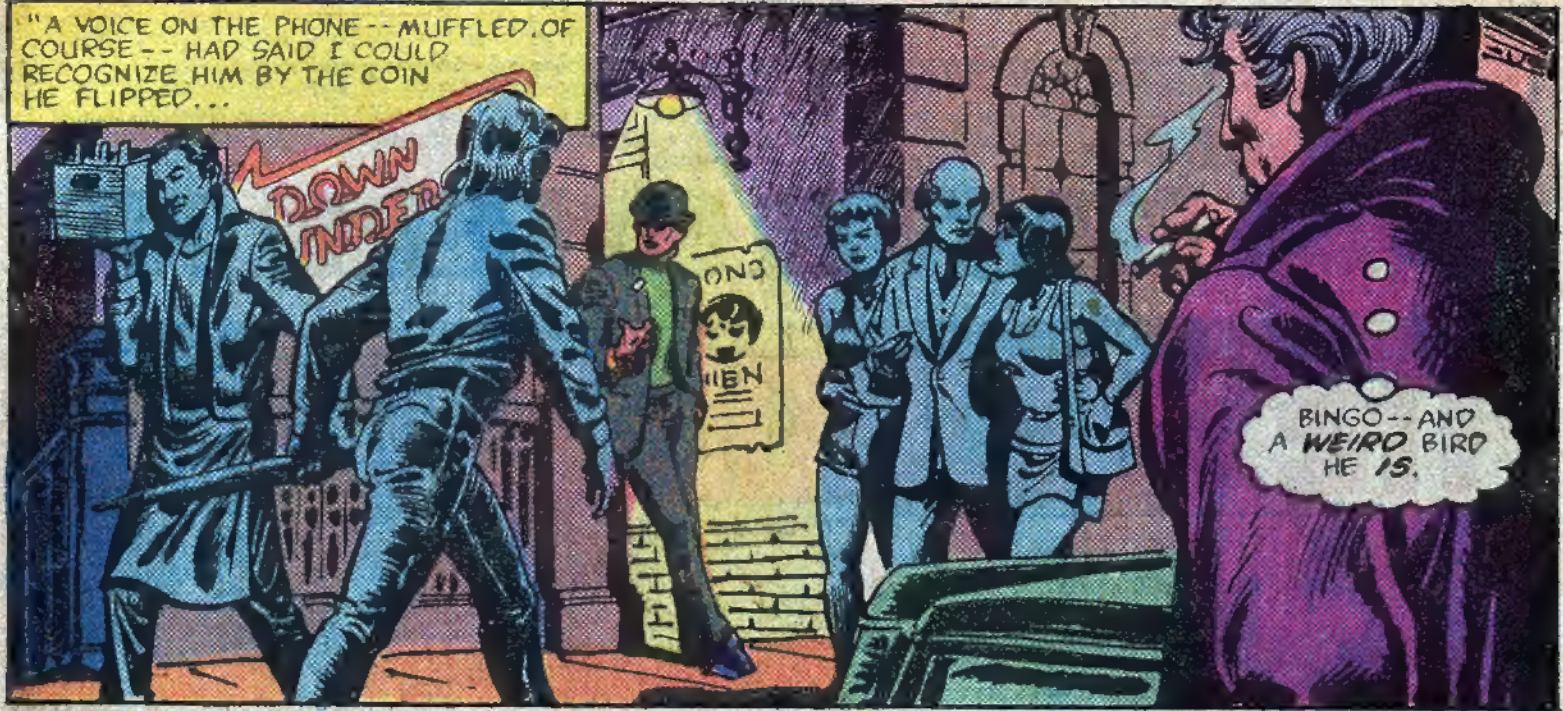
CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORIST

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
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"A VOICE ON THE PHONE-- MUFFLED, OF COURSE-- HAD SAID I COULD RECOGNIZE HIM BY THE COIN HE FLIPPED..."



"THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF-KILTER IN HIS EYES AS HE SCANNED THE PASSING PARADE..."



"I DECIDED TO SKIP THE INSPECTION."



HEADS. I'M YOUR MAN. THE NAME'S RESTON--CLIVE RESTON.



"AND HE TURNED, TO STEP DOWN."



"I FOLLOWED HIM INTO A DIVE
FINGERPAINTED IN SMOKE AND GREASE.
THE GIRL ROCKING THE BAR WAS
STRICTLY FROM HUNGER --



"--AND I'D HAD
BETTER MEALS
IN FOXHOLES.

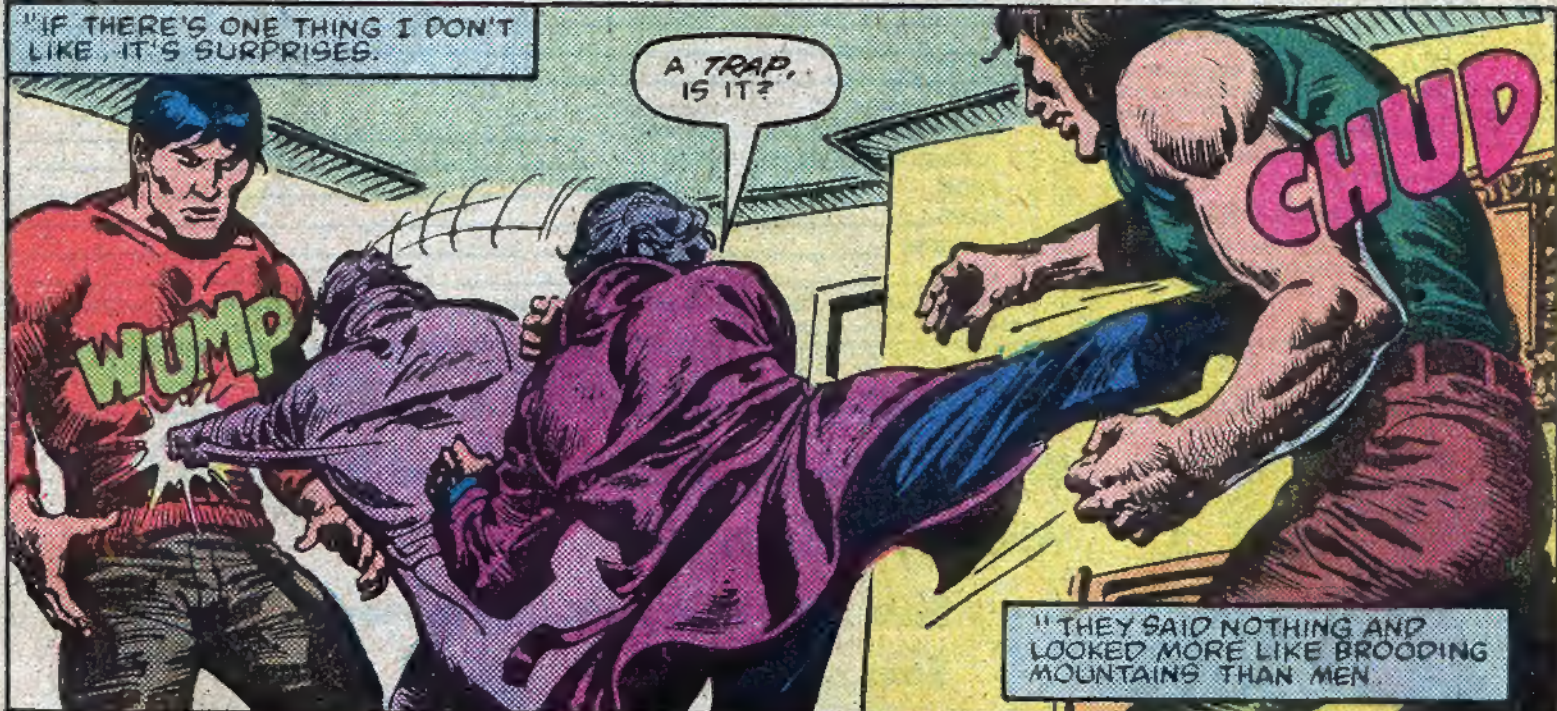
"SO IT WAS A GOOD THING
THE COIN FLIPPED ITS WAY
THROUGH THE SLEAZE
INTO A BACK ROOM.



"... BUT IT WAS A VERY BAD
THING THE WAY THE DOOR
SLAMMED SHUT BEHIND ME.



"IF THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T
LIKE, IT'S SURPRISES.



A TRAP,
IS IT?

CHUD

"THEY SAID NOTHING AND
LOOKED MORE LIKE BROODING
MOUNTAINS THAN MEN.

"BINGO AGAIN -- MOUNTAINS
DON'T BOTHER TO DUCK.



UH... DIDN'T
HURT, HUH?



"AS USUAL,
I'D SPOKEN
TOO SOON --
AND WHEN
WILL I EVER
LEARN THAT
I AM NOT A
MOUNTAIN?

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want?

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gum?
Is that it?

YUM

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'bout
uh....

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Yum'. Must be
new, huh?

Hmm. Think
I'll try a piece
for you.

MMM - ubb

MMM!

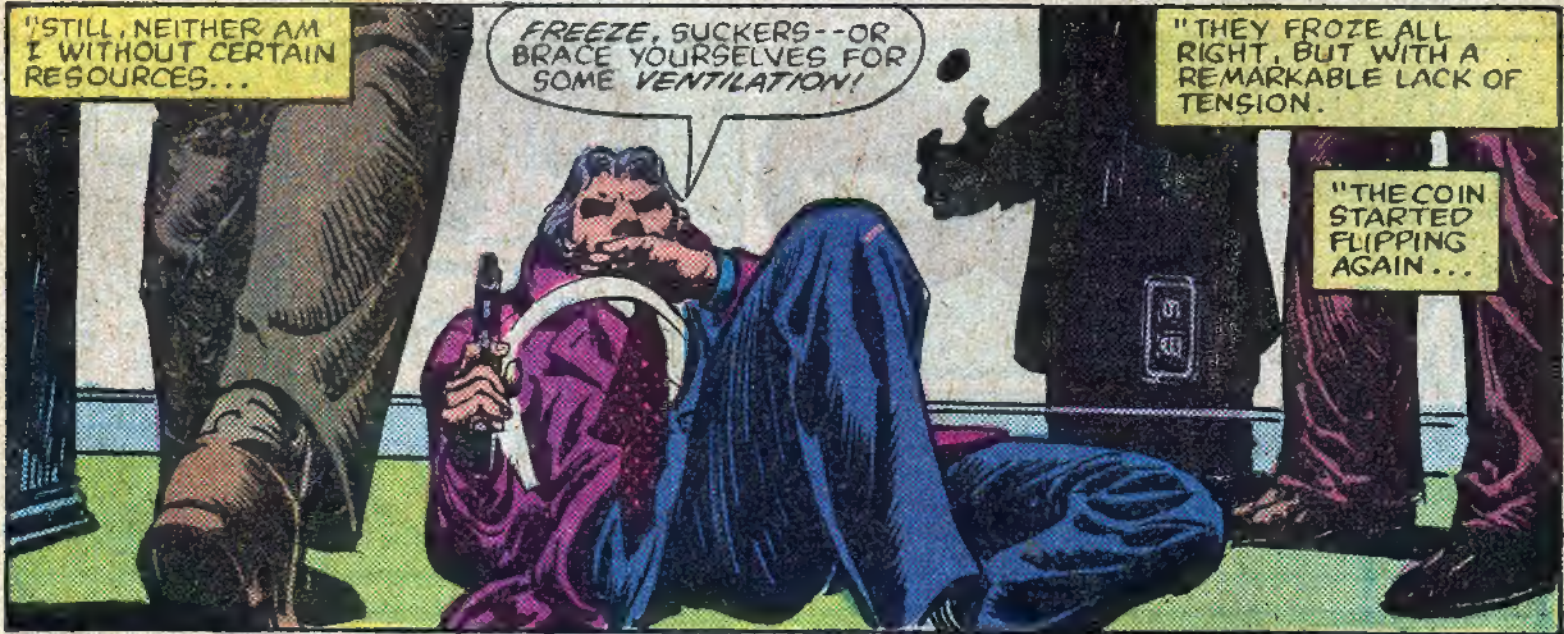
YUMM!



Bubble Yum
Bubble Gum.
It's a Super Yum.

Told
ya.

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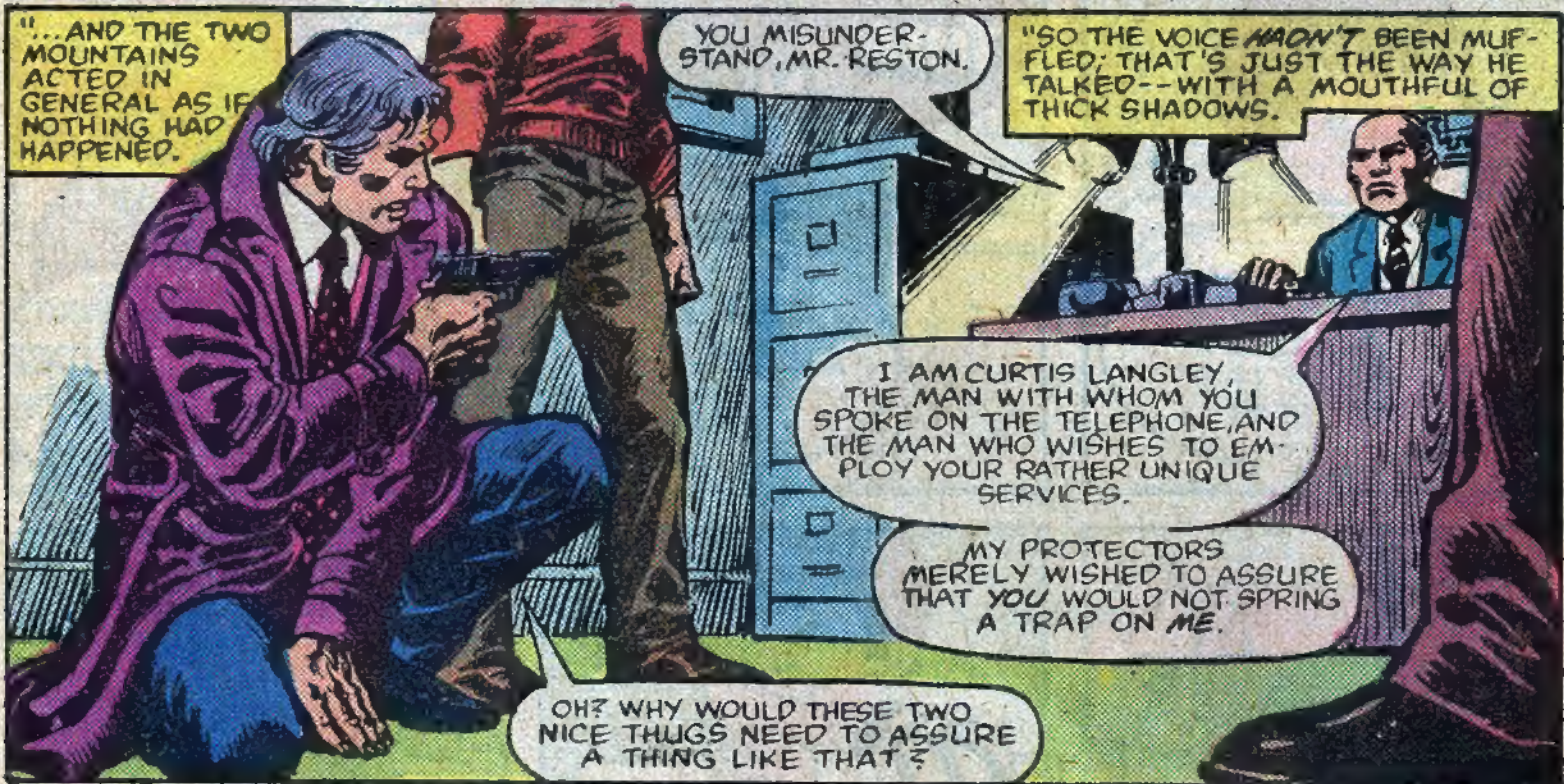


"STILL, NEITHER AM I WITHOUT CERTAIN RESOURCES..."

"FREEZE, SUCKERS--OR BRACE YOURSELVES FOR SOME VENTILATION!"

"THEY FROZE ALL RIGHT, BUT WITH A REMARKABLE LACK OF TENSION."

"THE COIN STARTED FLIPPING AGAIN..."



"...AND THE TWO MOUNTAINS ACTED IN GENERAL AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED."

"YOU MISUNDERSTAND, MR. RESTON."

"SO THE VOICE ~~HADN'T~~ BEEN MUFFLED; THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE TALKED--WITH A MOUTHFUL OF THICK SHADOWS."

"I AM CURTIS LANGLEY, THE MAN WITH WHOM YOU SPOKE ON THE TELEPHONE, AND THE MAN WHO WISHES TO EMPLOY YOUR RATHER UNIQUE SERVICES."

"MY PROTECTORS MERELY WISHED TO ASSURE THAT YOU WOULD NOT SPRING A TRAP ON ME."

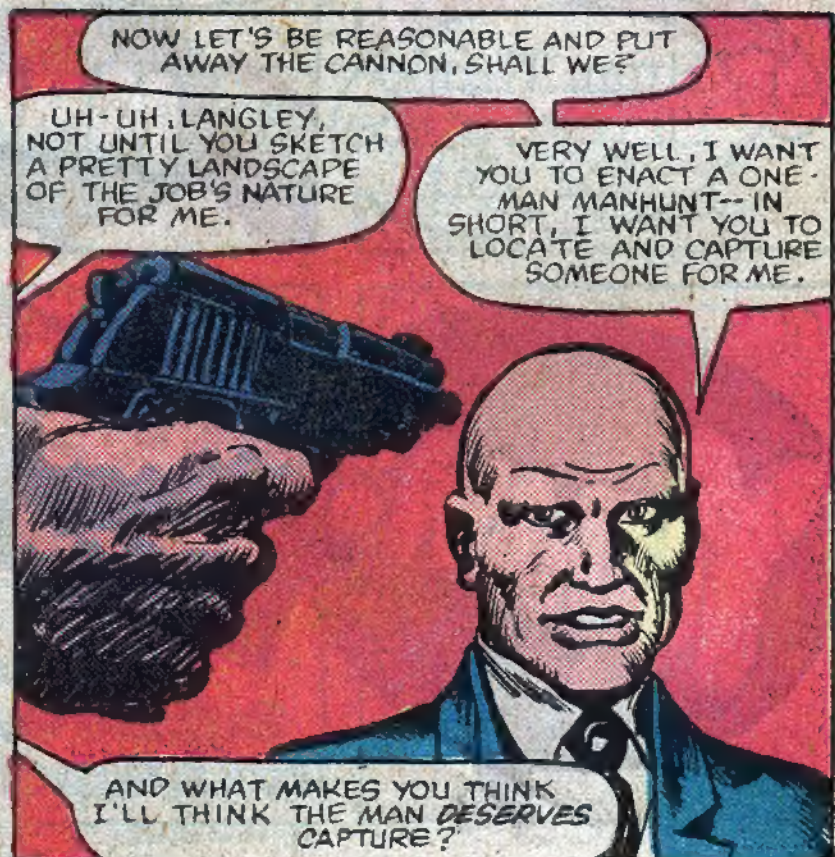
"OH? WHY WOULD THESE TWO NICE THUGS NEED TO ASSURE A THING LIKE THAT?"



"SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS, MY DEAR SIR."

"SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY ALL THE HUSH ABOUT THIS JOB? IT COULD WELL BE MY FIRST PAYING WORK IN MONTHS AND I CAN'T EVEN BRAG TO MOTHER."

"IT'S SIMPLY THE WAY THINGS MUST BE DONE, MR. RESTON, BY THE VERY NATURE OF THE EMPLOYMENT I WISH TO OFFER."



"NOW LET'S BE REASONABLE AND PUT AWAY THE CANNON, SHALL WE?"

"UH-UH, LANGLEY, NOT UNTIL YOU SKETCH A PRETTY LANDSCAPE OF THE JOB'S NATURE FOR ME."

"VERY WELL, I WANT YOU TO ENACT A ONE-MAN MANHUNT--IN SHORT, I WANT YOU TO LOCATE AND CAPTURE SOMEONE FOR ME."

"AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL THINK THE MAN DESERVES CAPTURE?"

"HE GOT SNAPPISH."

FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS, MR. RESTON, I HAVE RUN A PRIVATE SANITARIUM. THE MAN IN QUESTION HAS RECENTLY ESCAPED. THIS IS CLEARLY BAD FOR BUSINESS, NOT TO MENTION THE CITIZENRY AT LARGE.

I WANT HIM RETURNED TO HIS PADDED CELL BEFORE HIS FAMILY'S NEXT SUNDAY VISIT.

MAYBE THE FELLOW DISAGREES WITH YOUR PROGNOSIS. MAYBE, LIKE ALL SANE MEN, HE CRAVES A LITTLE FREEDOM.

YOUR CONSCIENCE IS SCRUPULOUS, MR. RESTON. THIS IS A PHOTO OF YOUR QUARRY-- I TRUST NO FURTHER PERSUASION WILL BE NECESSARY...

"BINGO, A THIRD TIME-- THE FACE HIT ME LIKE EYES OPENING IN A CASKET ON VIEW. I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE STUNNED IF HE'D HANDED ME A MIRROR.

AS YOU CAN SEE, MR. RESTON, HE IS INDEED AN INSANE MAN-- CRIMINALLY INSANE. AND IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE DETAILS, HE'S TOLD ME EVERYTHING UNDER ANALYSIS...

"NO NEED-- IT WAS CARRINGTON SCULLERS AND I HADN'T FORGOTTEN A THING ABOUT HIM. HOW COULD I?"

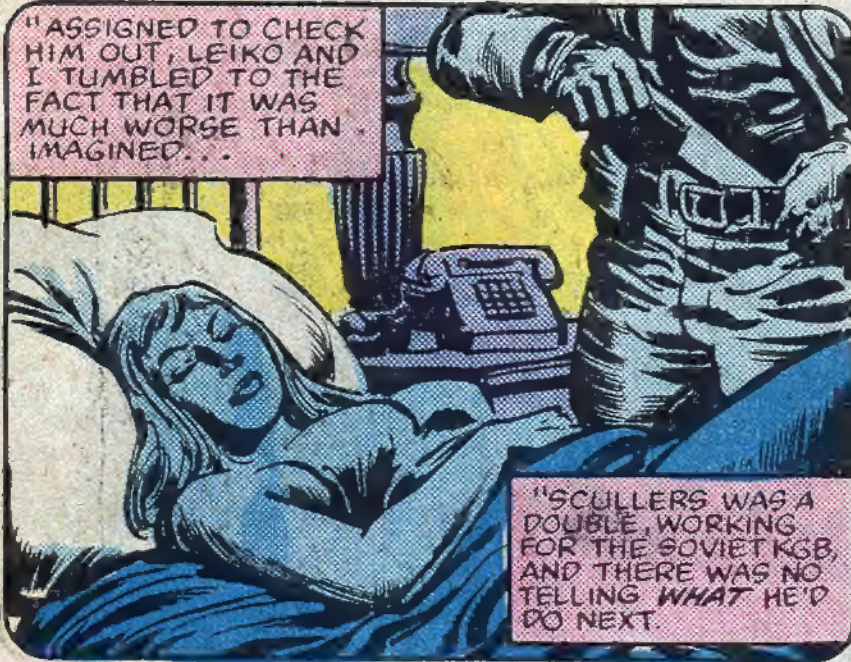
"HOW COULD I FORGET THE GOB OF LUNATIC SLIME WHO'D ALMOST KILLED THE ONLY THING I ONCE LIVED FOR?"

"IT WAS BACK WHEN LEIKO WU AND I STILL WORKED FOR MI-6, AND BACK WHEN WE WERE STILL IN LOVE. BACK BEFORE A WONDERFUL GUY NAMED SHANG-CHI BLAZED ON THE SCENE AND MADE ME PALE IN HER EYES TO THE SUBSTANCE OF A GHOST.

"I DON'T BLAME EITHER ONE OF THEM A BIT... NOT MUCH ANYWAY... NOT THESE DAYS... NOT NOW THAT I'VE GOT MY NEW ANGEL..."

"ANYWAY, BACK THEN CARRINGTON SCULLERS WAS ALSO AN AGENT FOR MI-6-- UNTIL HE FELL UNDER PSYCHIATRIC REVIEW FOR SUNDRY BIZARRE BEHAVIOR..."

"ASSIGNED TO CHECK HIM OUT, LEIKO AND I TUMBLED TO THE FACT THAT IT WAS MUCH WORSE THAN IMAGINED..."

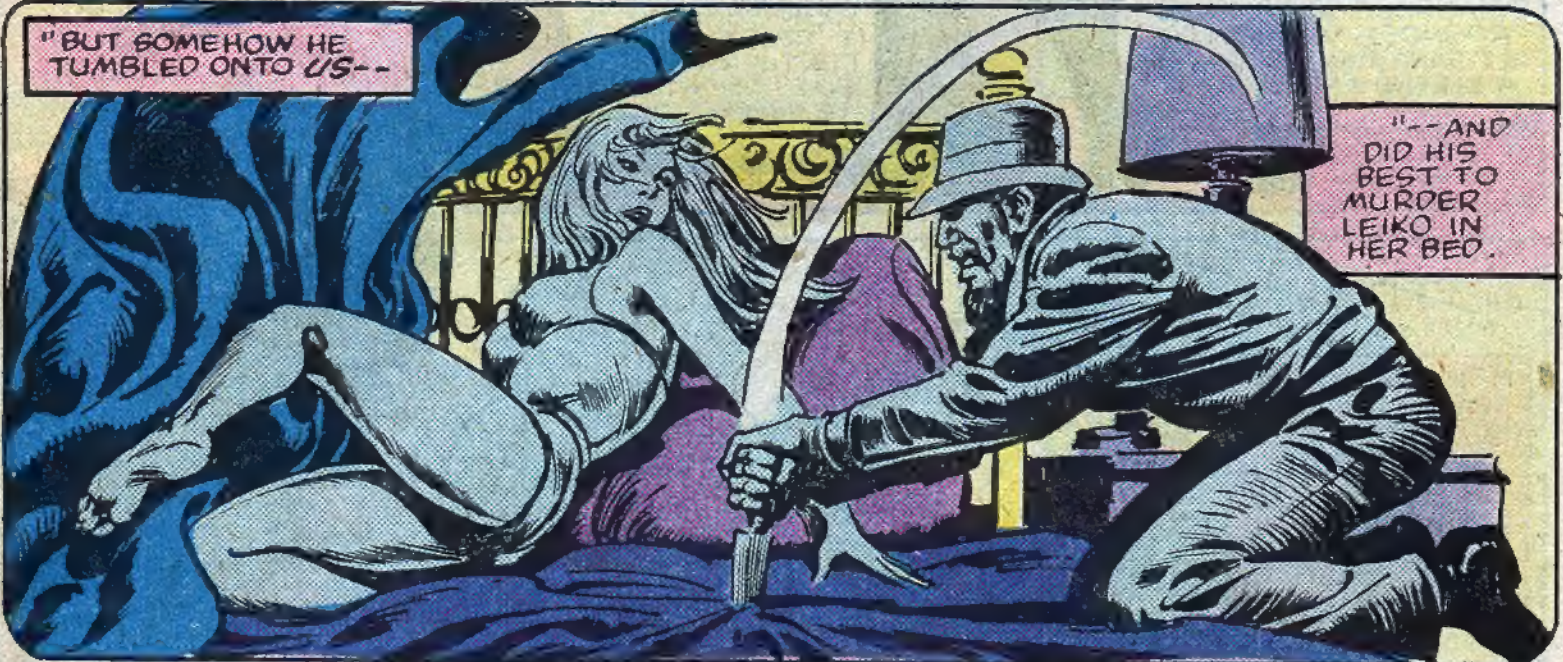


"SCULLERS WAS A DOUBLE, WORKING FOR THE SOVIET KGB, AND THERE WAS NO TELLING WHAT HE'D DO NEXT."

"AGAINST OUR PROTESTS, THE HIGHER-UPS DECIDED TO LEAVE HIM BE--USE HIM TO FEED MISINFORMATION TO THE RUSSIANS."



"BUT SOMEHOW HE TUMBLED ONTO US--"



"--AND DID HIS BEST TO MURDER LEIKO IN HER BED."

"GOOD THING THE LITTLE DARLIN' IS SUCH AN ACE... SHE MANAGED TO CHASE HIM AWAY WITH NARY A SCRATCH."



"ON HIM EITHER, UNFORTUNATELY"



"BUT NOW THE JIG WAS UP AND WE WERE SET ON HIM LIKE MAD DOGS, WITH ORDERS TO TRACK HIM DOWN AND BRING HIM IN-- DEAD, AS THEY SAY, OR ALIVE. NO PREFERENCE."

"HE LED US A MERRY CHASE ALL THE WAY TO HELL AND ITALY AND THEN PULLED A SMOKE TRICK.

"THAT NIGHT IN OUR HOTEL ROOM--

"-- HE CAUGHT US GUARDS DOWN AND TOO FAR FROM OUR GUNS.

"I'VE NEVER LIKED TURNING TABLES, NOT WHEN THEY TURN AGAINST ME-- BUT THERE IT WAS, AND OUT THE WINDOW WE WENT.

"WITHOUT OUR PIECES.

"IT WENT ON FOR DAYS WITH NO FOOD AND LITTLE WATER. WE WERE HUNTED, HAUNTED, AND IN DANGER OF GOING OFF THE DEEP END WITH EMPTY SKULLS.

"FINALLY WE HOLED UP IN SOME WRETCHED SHEEP VILLAGE LONG ENOUGH TO HATCH A PLAN...

"LEIKO WAS THE LURE, RISKING A GOOD FOUR SHOTS--

"-- BEFORE I WAS ABLE TO SLAM THE TRAP ON HIM.

"HE HOUNDED US THROUGH THIRTY MILES OF THE MEANEST WILDERNESS ITALY HAD EVER MANUFACTURED, FINALLY FORCING US INTO THE MOUNTAINS...

"IT WAS A VERY LARGE ROCK AND A WONDER I DIDN'T KILL THE SICKO, BUT ONE THING WAS CERTAIN-- I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANY MORE DAMAGE TO THAT SCRAMBLED BRAIN OF HIS.

"WE WERE JUBILANT FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES -- THEN WE HAD NIGHTMARES FOR TWICE AS MANY MONTHS.

"AND SO, BACK IN THE PRESENT, IT CAME TIME TO PLAY GOD -- I PUT AWAY THE CANNON WITH MEANING.

ALL RIGHT, LANGLEY -- I'M READY TO BE REASONABLE.

EVEN IF FREELANCE RESTORATIONS COULDN'T USE THE MONEY, I COULD CERTAINLY USE THE SATISFACTION -- NAILING THIS LUNATIC ONCE WAS HARDLY ENOUGH.

"LANGLEY SMILED.

SCULLERS WAS LAST SEEN IN A PUB ON THE DOCKS CALLED THE SEAHAWK. MY... AH, BODYGUARDS HERE WERE UNABLE TO TRACE HIM ANY FARTHER -- BUT IT IS A START, MR. RESTON.

AND NOW, MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU GO OUT THE BACK WAY? IT'S MUCH QUICKER.

"SO I DID, WITH ONE LAST GANDER AT TWO MOUNTAINS AND A FLIPPING COIN.

"WEIRD.

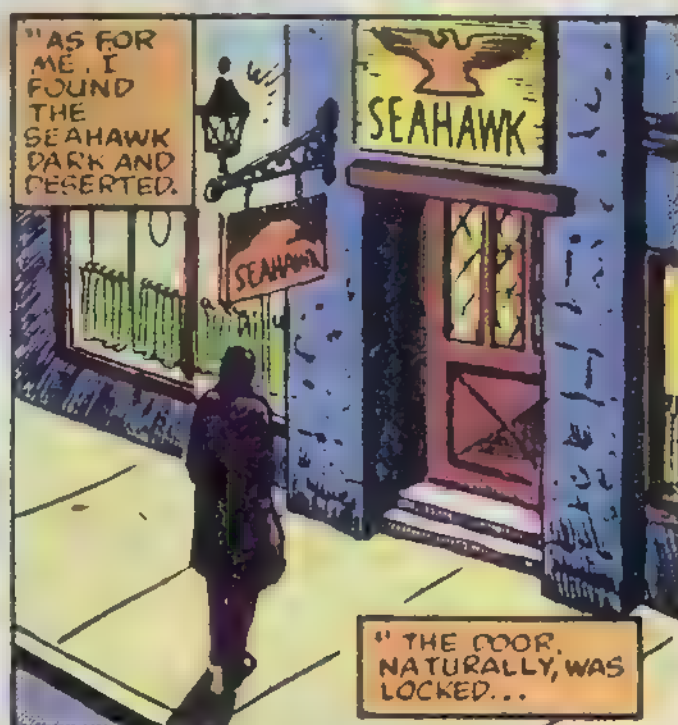
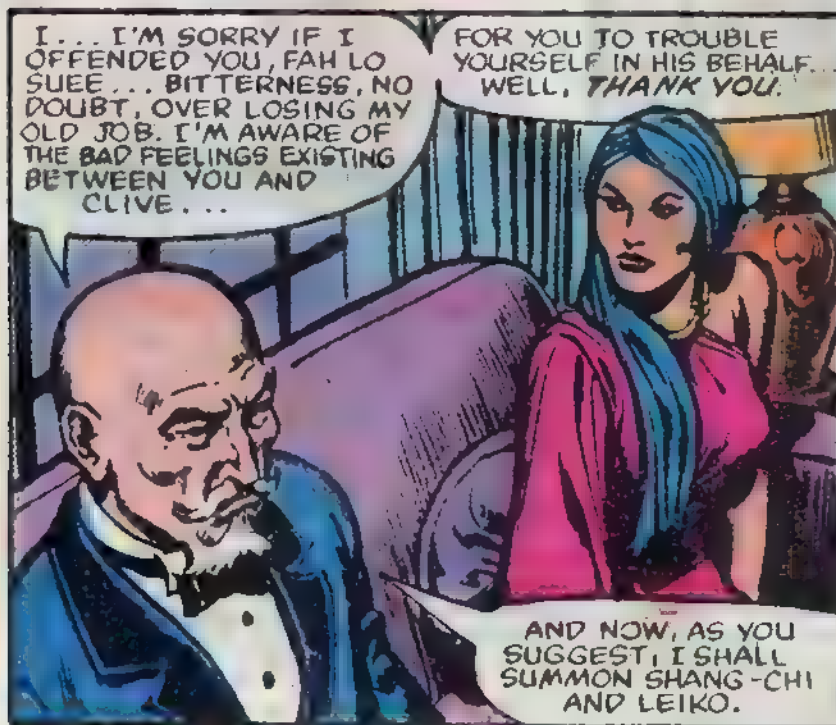
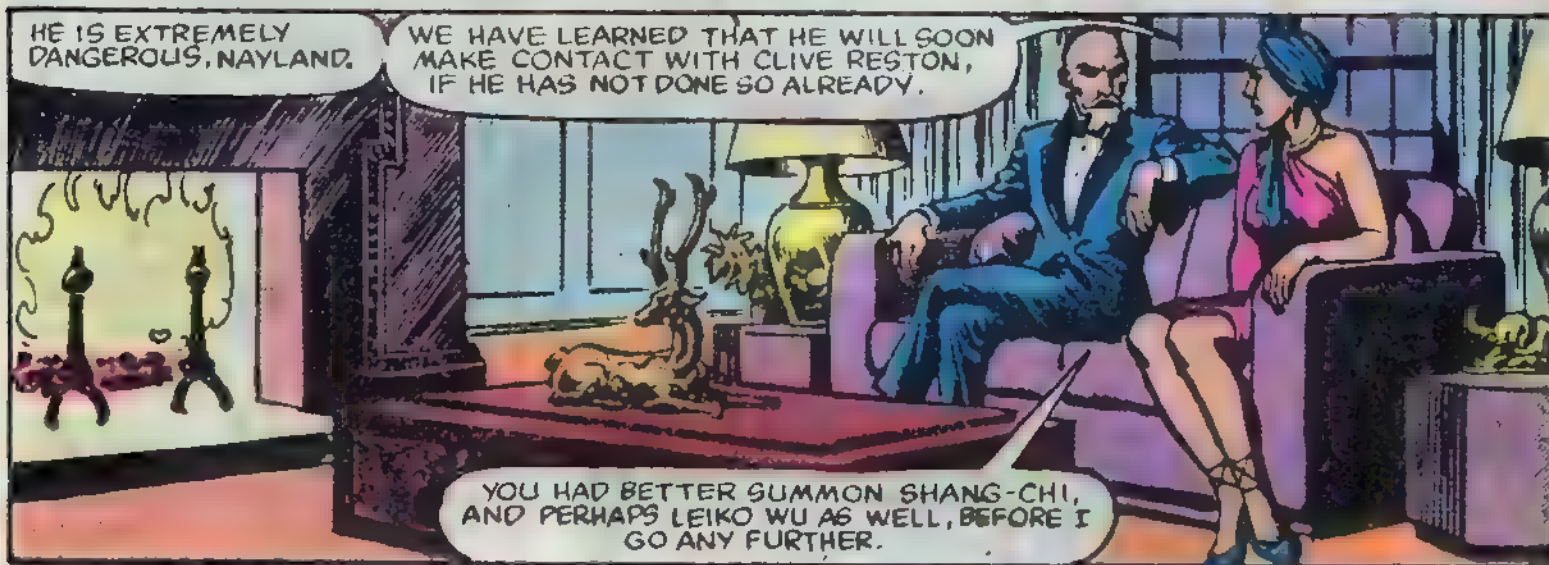
"MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE SCOTTISH CASTLE CALLED STORMHAVEN, OWNED BY MY BENEFACTOR SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH, A LOT OF THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT WERE GOING DOWN.

"FOR EXAMPLE, OLD SMITH WAS GREETING HIS FORMER LOVER FAH LO SUEE -- AN EXOTIC TWIST WHO REMAINS YOUNG AND LUSCIOUS THANKS TO HER PAPA FU MANCHU'S SERUM OF IMMORTALITY.

FAH LO SUEE -- HOW LOVELY YOU STILL ARE... HOW YOUNG...

"FAH, BY THE WAY, HAS TAKEN OVER SMITH'S OLD JOB AS DIRECTOR OF MI-6. THE WITCH.

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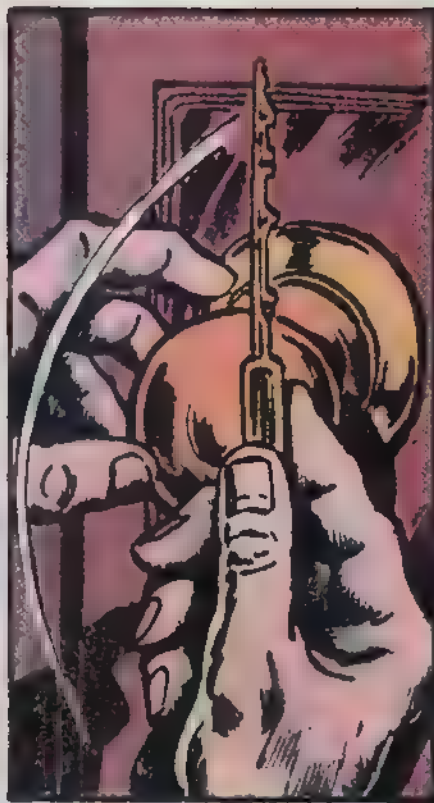
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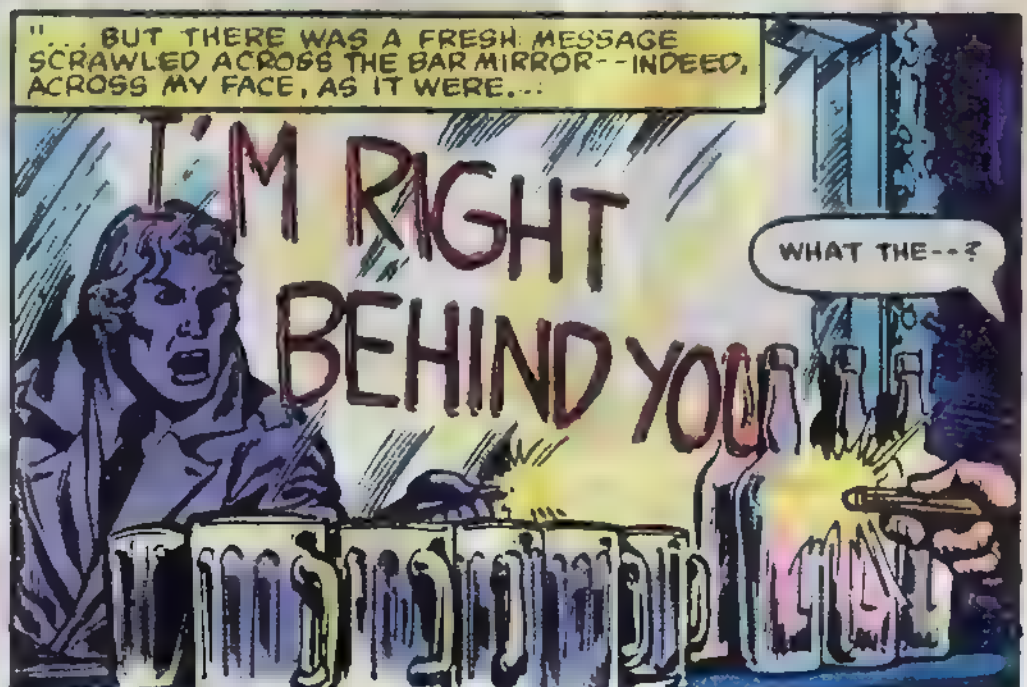
"SO...



"... I PICKED
IT OPEN.



"IT WAS DARK AND
APPARENTLY DESERTED,
ALL RIGHT...



" BUT THERE WAS A FRESH MESSAGE
SCRAWLED ACROSS THE BAR MIRROR--INDEED,
ACROSS MY FACE, AS IT WERE...

WHAT THE--?



SWOKT!

"I NEVER
EVEN HAD A
CHANCE TO
SAY GOOD
NIGHT.



MEANWHILE, AT STORMHAVEN...

BUT... WHAT YOU'VE
JUST TOLD US, FAH
LO SUEE...

IT'S... UTTERLY
INCREDIBLE!



BUT NEVERTHELESS TRUE, MS. WU-- IT'S IN MIDDLESEX, NEAR CHELTENHAM.

MI-6 CANNOT BECOME INVOLVED, FOR ANY NUMBER OF REASONS-- BUT I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE NOW.



RIGHT.

LET'S SEE ACTION, SHANG.

"COMING TO AT DAWN REMINDED ME OF CYMBAL CRASHES WITH THE ACOUSTICS OF THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL...



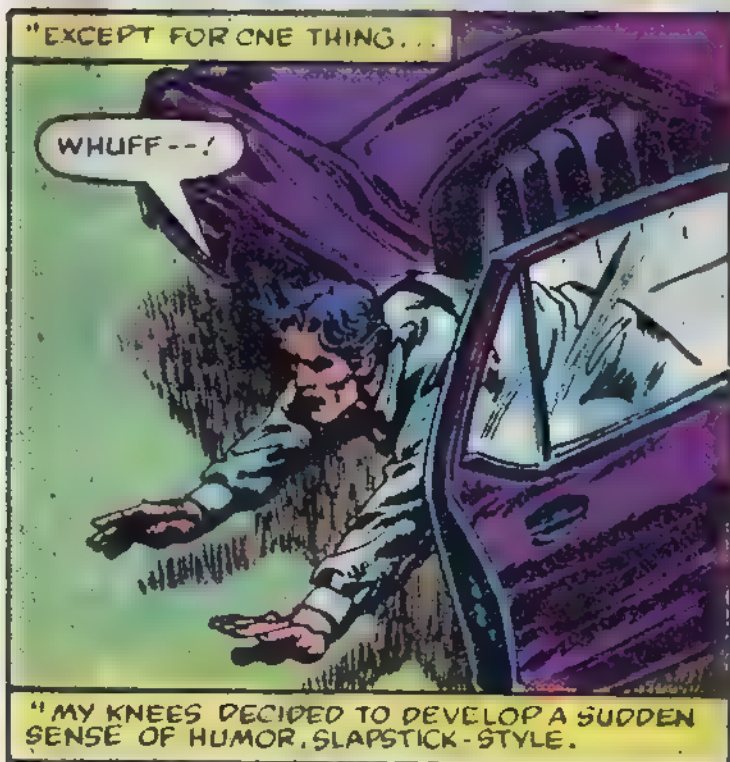
OHHHH...

"PARDON ME FOR NOT APPLAUDING.



"MY GUN WAS GONE, OF COURSE, BUT AT LEAST I WASN'T TRUSSED UP-- AND I WAS ALONE IN THE DRIVERLESS CAR, WHOEVER IT MIGHT BELONG TO...

"... MEANING, I COULD SIMPLY JACK OPEN THE DOOR AND WALTZ AWAY SCOT-FREE.



"EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...

WHUFF--!

"MY KNEES DECIDED TO DEVELOP A SUDDEN SENSE OF HUMOR, SLAPSTICK-STYLE.



"THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER THING...

"I WRENCHED MY NOSE OUT OF THE GRASS AND IMMEDIATELY DECIDED THIS WAS ONE VIEW I COULD NEVER WALTZ AWAY FROM...

"THE CAR WAS PARKED
200 YARDS FROM THE FRONT
DOOR OF STORMHAVEN
CASTLE."

"THERE WAS SOMEONE JUST
ABOUT TO ENTER -- AND THE
SOMEONE HAPPENED TO BE
CARRINGTON SCULLERS."

"HE MUST HAVE ASSUMED
I'D BE OUT FOR HOURS
LONGER -- AND NOW HE WAS
AFTER LEIKO AGAIN!"

"I BURST THROUGH THE DOOR AFTER
HIM -- AND THE FOYER WAS GONE --
THE FAMILIAR PLANTS
AND STATUES AND
FURNISHINGS, EVEN
SCULLERS HIMSELF --
ALL GONE."

"... REPLACED WITH
THE SPARE AND
ECHOING DECOR
OF A MADHOUSE,
COMPLETE WITH
GIBBERING,
HOWLING
INMATES."

HOW,
PALEFACE!

"THEY ATTACKED ME WITH
SCREWDRIVERS AND CLUBS,
TRICKED UP LIKE AMERICAN
REDSKINS --"

"-- AND MY BRAIN WARPED,
WOOFED, AND REELED INTO
CLOUD CUCKOO-LAND."

"I COULDN'T DEAL WITH IT, COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW STORMHAVEN HAD BEEN TURNED INSIDE-OUT--A CASTLE ON THE OUTSIDE, AN ASYLUM WITHIN ITS WALLS..."

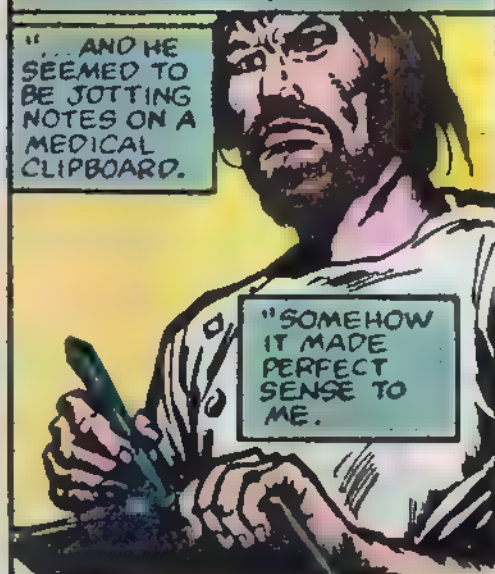


"THEY SWARMED OVER ME, STINKING OF SWEAT AND ODORS FAR WORSE."

"THEN I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE, THROUGH FLAILING ARMS, OF SCULLERS..."

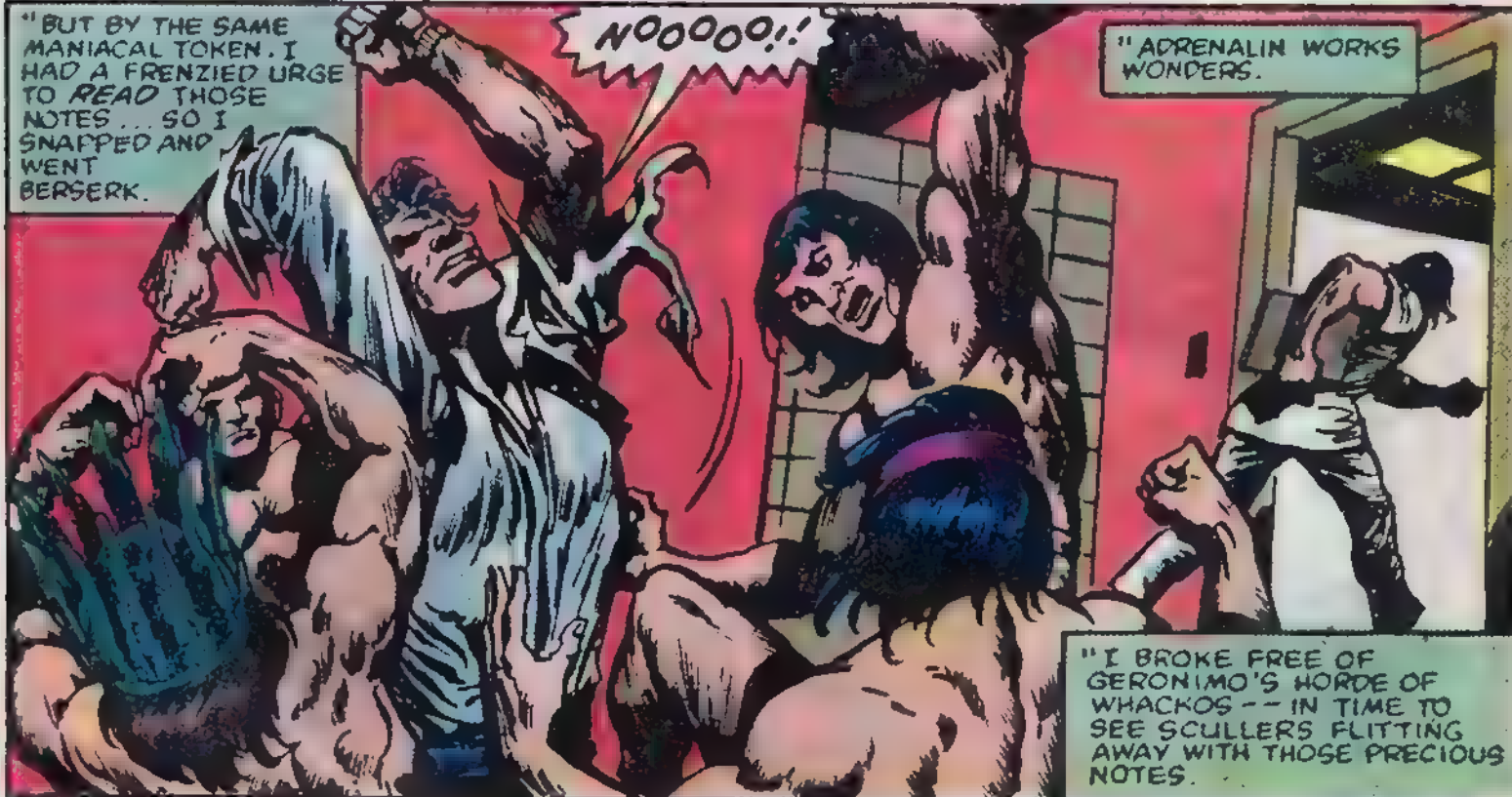
"HE HADN'T CHANGED SINCE ITALY-- THE SAME GRUBBY, SICKO-PSYCHO LOOK."

"...AND HE SEEMED TO BE JOTTING NOTES ON A MEDICAL CLIPBOARD."



"SOMEHOW IT MADE PERFECT SENSE TO ME."

"BUT BY THE SAME MANIACAL TOKEN, I HAD A FRENZIED URGE TO READ THOSE NOTES... SO I SNAPPED AND WENT BERSERK."



NOOOOO!!

"ADRENALIN WORKS WONDERS."

"I BROKE FREE OF GERONIMO'S HORDE OF WHACKOS-- IN TIME TO SEE SCULLERS FLITTING AWAY WITH THOSE PRECIOUS NOTES."

"I CHASED TO A BRANCHING CORRIDOR AND NO SIGN OF SCULLERS OR NOTES IN EITHER DIRECTION."



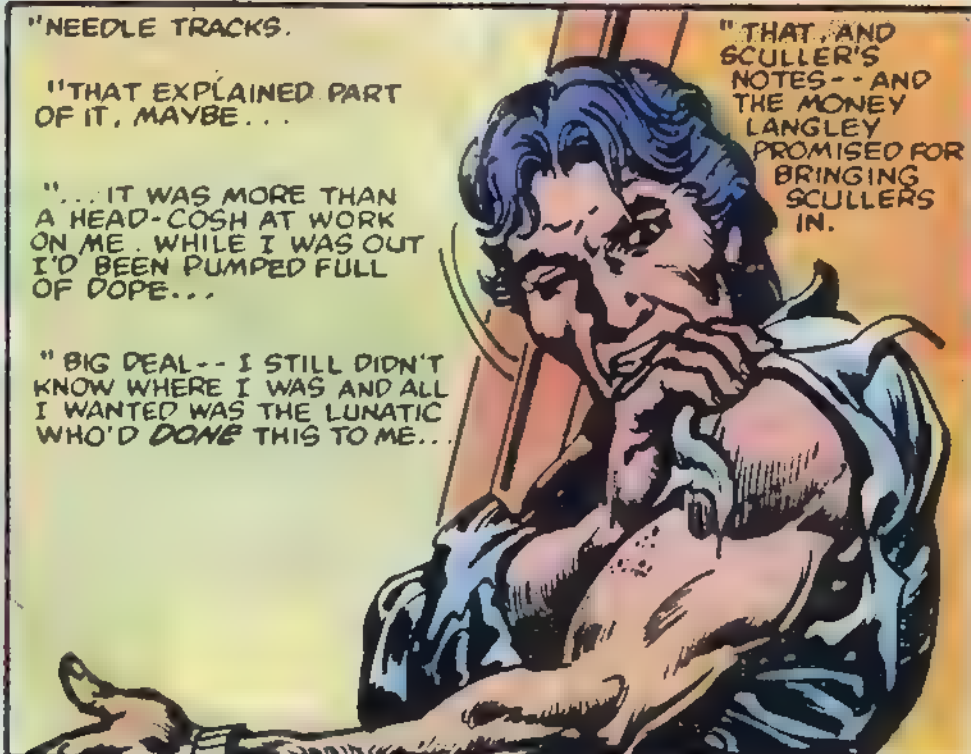
"THAT'S WHEN MY ARM FELT THE TWINGE"

"NEEDLE TRACKS."

"THAT EXPLAINED PART OF IT, MAYBE..."

"...IT WAS MORE THAN A HEAD-COSH AT WORK ON ME. WHILE I WAS OUT I'D BEEN PUMPED FULL OF DOPE..."

"BIG DEAL-- I STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS AND ALL I WANTED WAS THE LUNATIC WHO'D DONE THIS TO ME..."



"THAT, AND SCULLER'S NOTES-- AND THE MONEY LANGLEY PROMISED FOR BRINGING SCULLERS IN."

"ANYWAY, SINCE I STILL COULDN'T DECIDE WHICH WAY TO GO..."



"...I TOOK THE LEFT CORRIDOR, MY LEGS FEELING LIKE WOBBLY STILTS GROWING LONGER WITH EACH STRIDE



"WHEN I WONDERED, WOULD I BRAIN MYSELF ON THE ANTISEPTIC CEILING?"

"SUDDENLY HE WAS THERE WITH A COCKEYED LEER, TAUNTING.



"I LUNGED FOR HIM-- FOR HIS CLIPBOARD..."



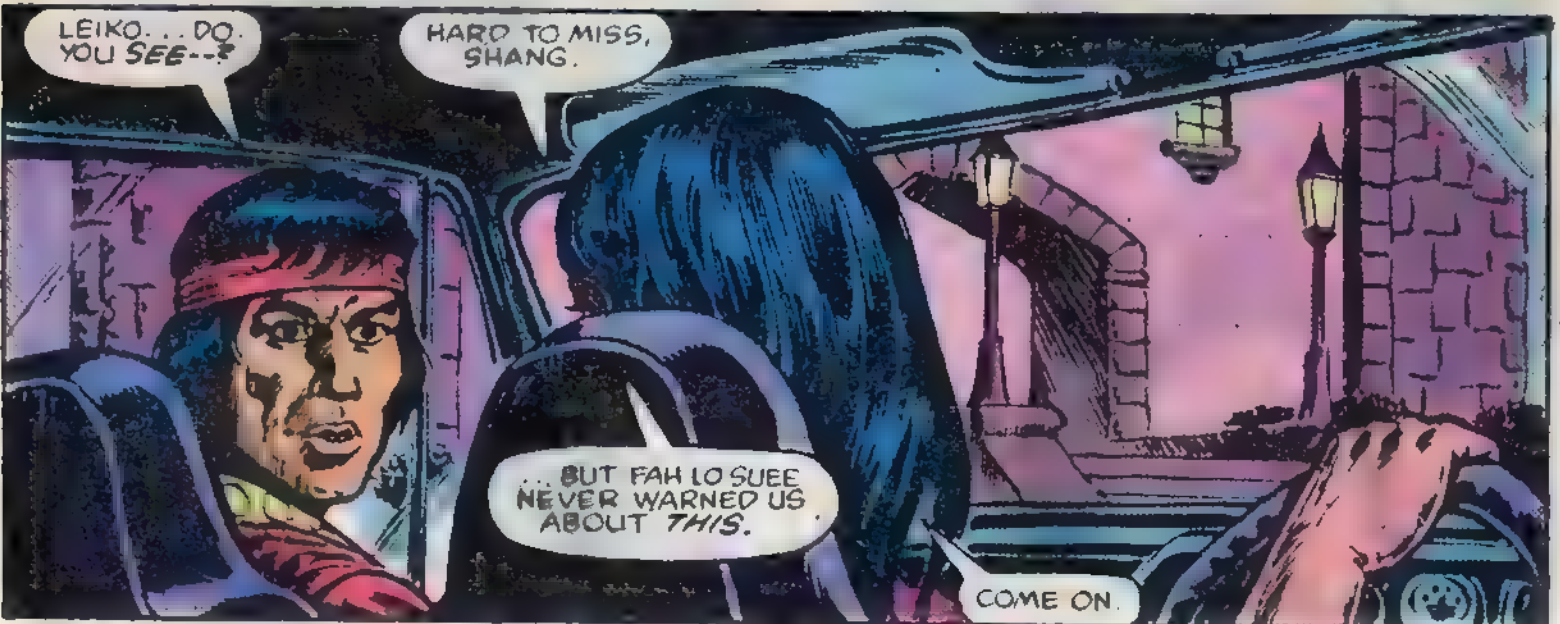
"...AND SOMEBODY CUT THE STILTS RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER ME.



"TOODLE-OO, RESTON-BABY."

LEIKO... DO YOU SEE--?"

HARD TO MISS, SHANG.



...BUT FAH LO SUEE NEVER WARNED US ABOUT THIS.

COME ON.

"BY THEN I WAS SO FAR GONE
I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THE
BOTTOM.

"I COULD HAVE LANDED
ON THREE SPLINTERING
ANKLES FOR ALL I KNEW.



"THE ONLY THING THAT
MATTERED WAS THE DARK-
NESS--AND ESCAPING IT.

"SO I SCRAPED A MATCH--



SKRITCH

"-- AND STARED INTO THE GREASE-
PAINT OF A PSYCHOTIC HARLEQUIN.



"THEN ALL THE
LIGHTS FLARED
AND THERE WERE
SUDDENLY THREE
OF THEM...



"... JUMPING MY BONES
WITH GRINS BUT FOR NO
GOOD REASON.

"IT MADE ME MAD AGAIN.



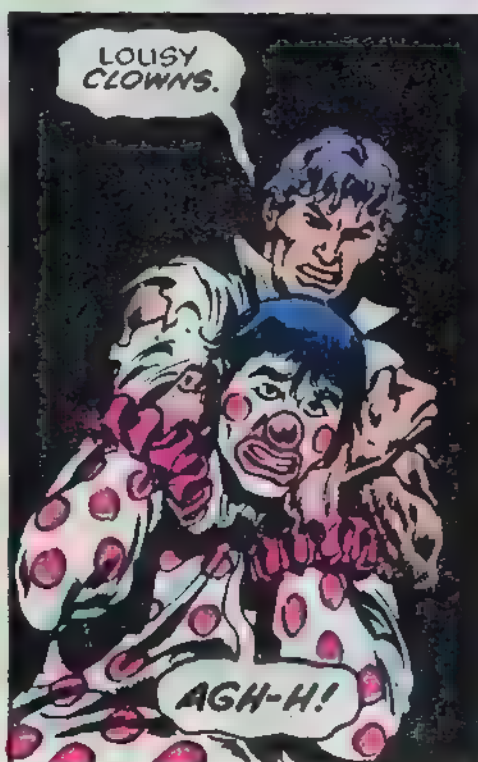
SWAKT

"REAL
MAD.



HWOKK

LOUSY
CLOWNS.



AGH-H!

"THEN I SPOTTED
SCULLERS AGAIN.
JOTTING NOTES--
WATCHING IT ALL
THROUGH THE
TRAP DOOR.



"I WONDERED FLEETLY WHAT
KIND OF ELEMENTARY DEDUC-
TION GREAT-UNCLE MIGHT MAKE
OF ALL THIS...

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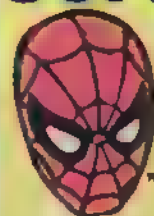
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TRAILING HIS ZANY CHUCKLE
BEHIND HIM...



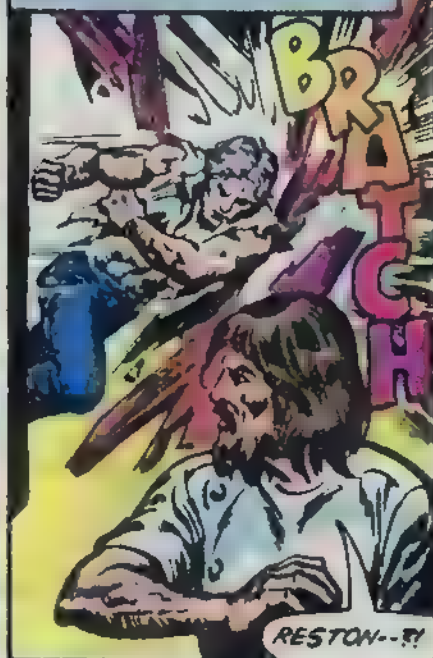
" AND IT BECAME
A CASE OF QUICK-
WATSON - THE
STAIRS!



"AFTER THAT, I
ABANDONED ECCEN-
TRIC OLD GREAT-
UNCLE TO HIS
BEE-KEEPING...



"... AND RIPPED A PAGE
FROM FATHER'S MORE
IMPETUOUS BOOK

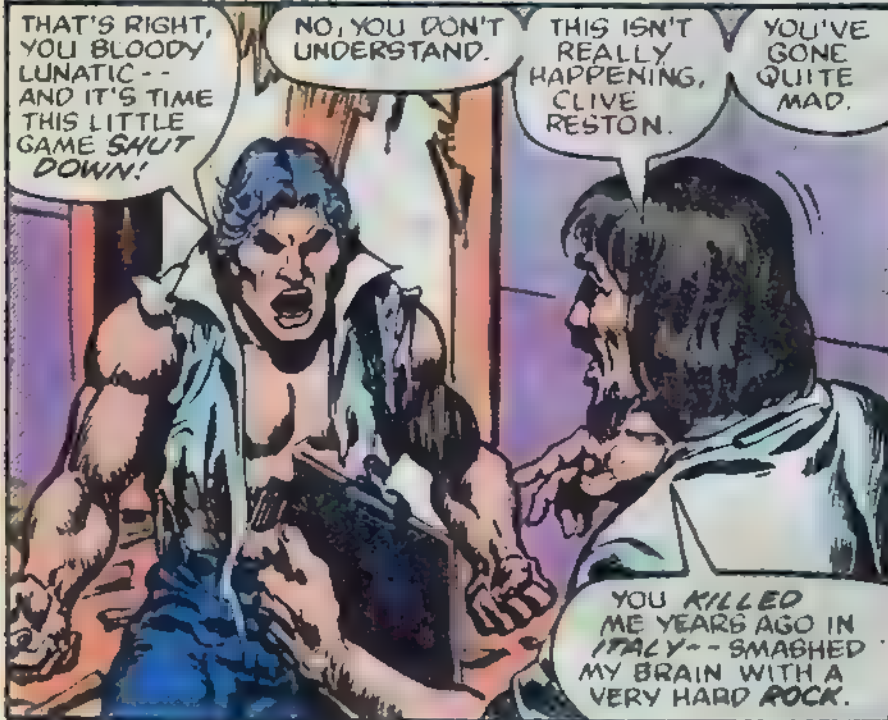


THAT'S RIGHT,
YOU BLOODY
LUNATIC--
AND IT'S TIME
THIS LITTLE
GAME SHUT
DOWN!

NO, YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

THIS ISN'T
REALLY
HAPPENING,
CLIVE
RESTON.

YOU'VE
GONE
QUITE
MAD.



YOU KILLED
ME YEARS AGO IN
ITALY-- SMASHED
MY BRAIN WITH A
VERY HARD ROCK.

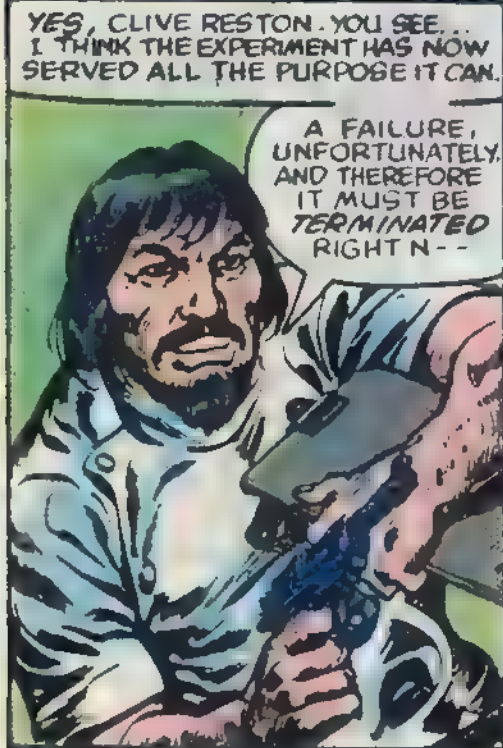
IT HURT.

NOOOOOO!!



YES, CLIVE RESTON. YOU SEE...
I THINK THE EXPERIMENT HAS NOW
SERVED ALL THE PURPOSE IT CAN.

A FAILURE,
UNFORTUNATELY,
AND THEREFORE
IT MUST BE
TERMINATED
RIGHT N--



BRAM

UHN!

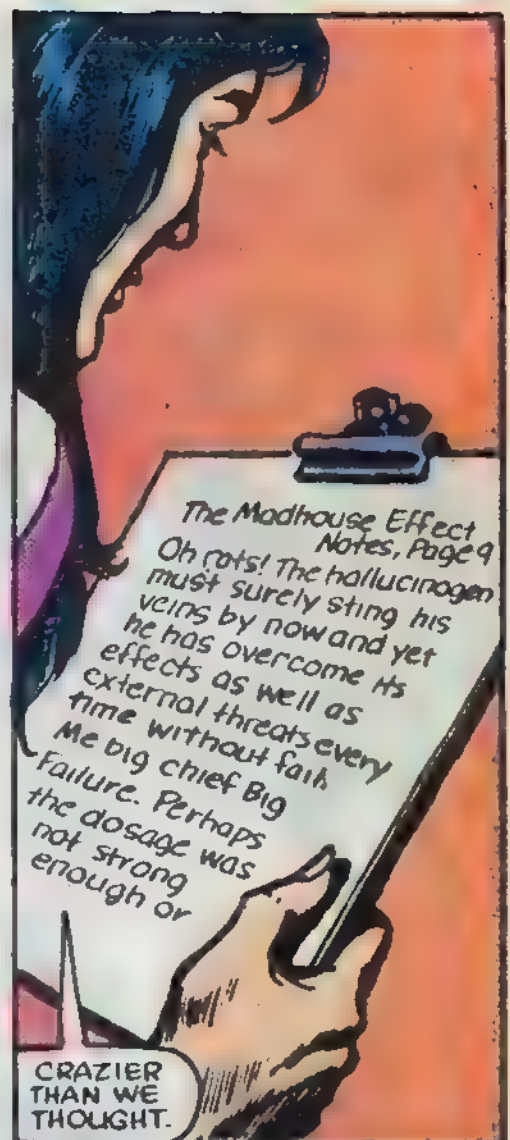


"THE SLUG SIZZLED OUT OF
NOWHERE.

"LEIKO HAD
JOINED THE
CAVALRY. OF
COURSE. WHO
ELSE?"

I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU
TWO ARE
REAL...





"... AND CAME UP SHORT AT THE FEET OF TWO BROODING MOUNTAINS.



"I GOT THE FEELING I'D CLIMBED THESE SUMMITS BEFORE.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, SCULLERS?! WHO ARE THESE GUYS?!



FREEZE!

BRAM



"EVEREST DIDN'T EVEN WINCE.

"BUT THEN, AS I KNEW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, MOUNTAINS FEEL NO PAIN.



SHANG, I... I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE A FATAL SHOT--!

SWAKT



SHUMP

"NEVER HAVING BEEN ONE TO RELY ON A GUN, CHI FELT NO SIMILAR RESTRAINTS...

"BLESS HIM.

"FOR A BLURRED MOMENT THERE I WONDERED IF SCULLERS HAD GOTTEN UNDER CHI'S SKIN AS WELL -- WITH A NEEDLE, I MEAN.



"IF HE HAD, I FIGURED THE HYPO MUST'VE BEEN FILLED WITH TORNADO-JUICE.



KII-YAAH!!!

"BUT THEN LEIKO LEAPED INTO THE FRAY -- AND I REALIZED IT WAS JUST THEIR USUAL STYLE:



FROKT

"I WAS SIMPLY SEEING IT THROUGH NEW EYES...

"...AND IT JUST COULD BE THAT I WAS SEEING IT ACCURATELY FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

"SPEED LIKE THAT WASN'T MADE FOR NORMAL TRACKING...



"AND BELIEVE ME, THE INTENSITY WAS UNREAL.

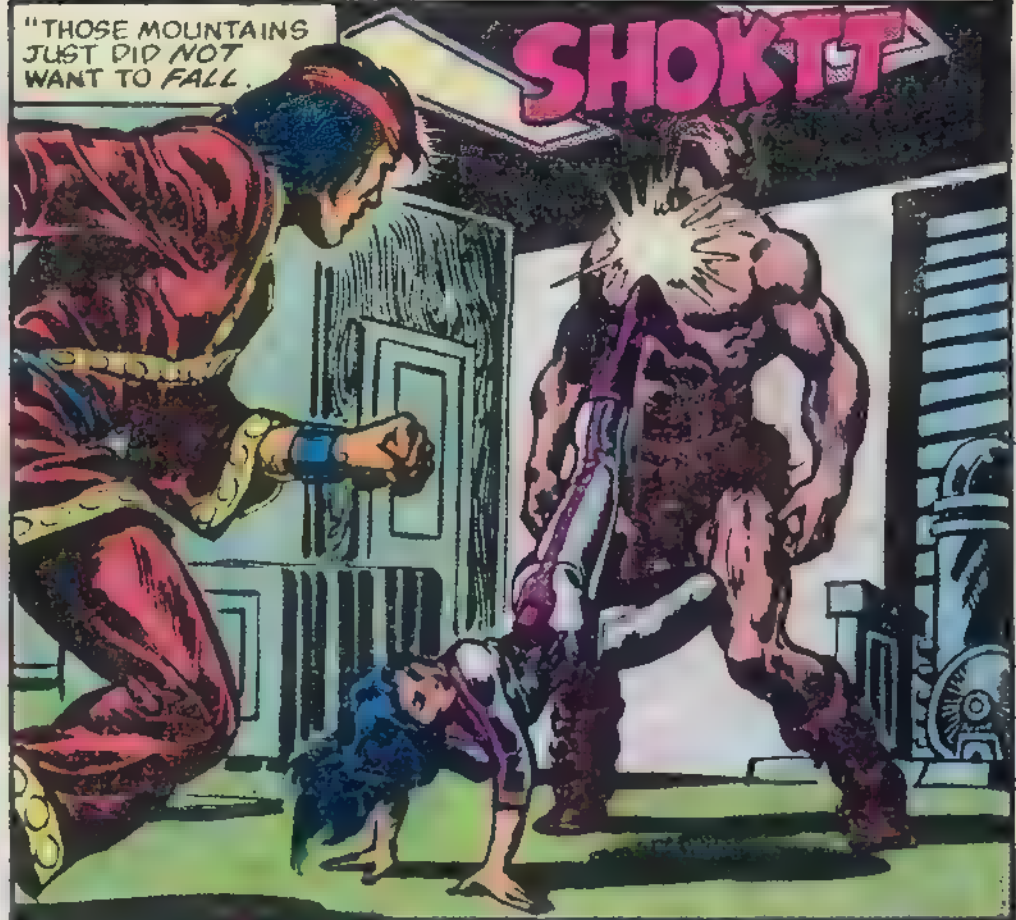
"OR MAYBE IT WAS SIMPLY BE-
CAUSE IT WENT ON SO LONG..."

BWOOMFF



"THOSE MOUNTAINS
JUST DID NOT
WANT TO FALL."

SHOKTT

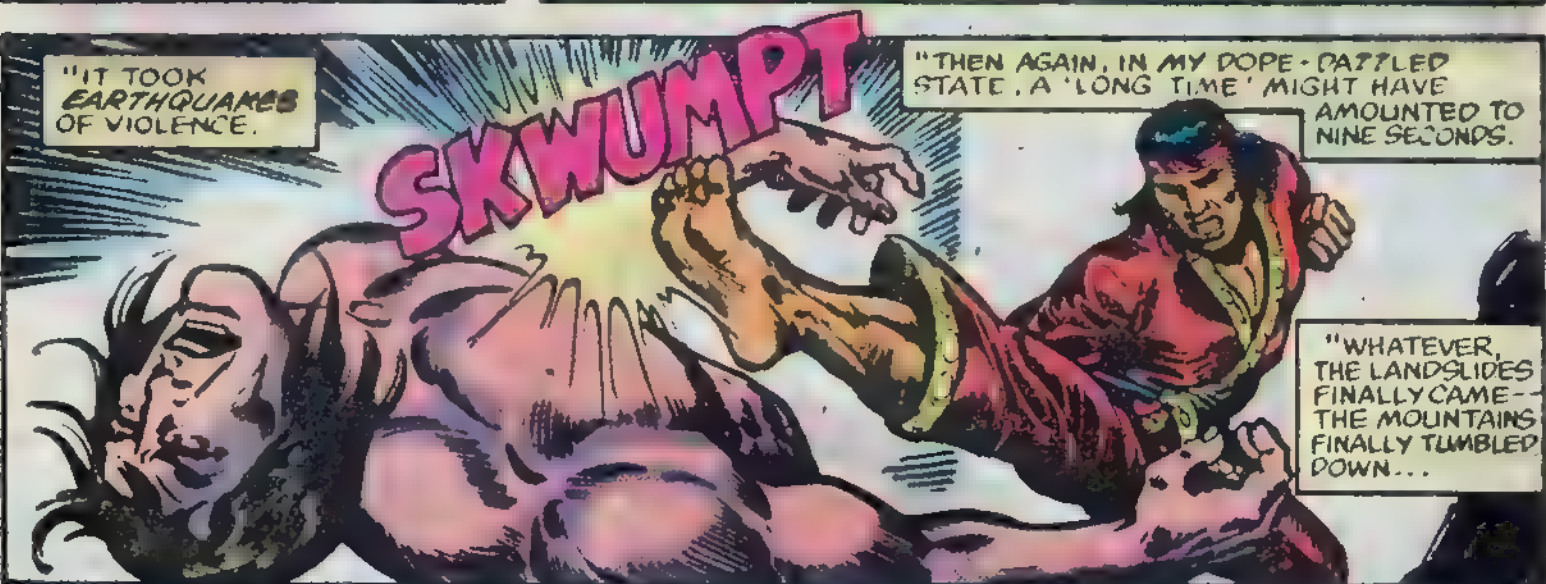


"IT TOOK
EARTHQUAKES
OF VIOLENCE."

SKWUMPT

"THEN AGAIN, IN MY DOPE-PAZZLED
STATE, A 'LONG TIME' MIGHT HAVE
AMOUNTED TO NINE SECONDS."

"WHATEVER,
THE LANDSLIDES
FINALLY CAME--
THE MOUNTAINS
FINALLY TUMBLED
DOWN..."



"AND I TURNED BACK
TO SCULLERS WITH NEW
AND FRENZIED INSPIRA-
TION..."

SWAK

"I MUST HAVE
SLAMMED HIS CHOPS
A DOZEN MERCILESS
TIMES -- BEFORE A VOICE
OF REASON SOFTLY
INVADED MY BRAIN."



ENOUGH, FESTON-- HE NO
LONGER FEELS YOUR BLOWS.
HE IS SENSELESS."

"TROUBLE WAS, SO WAS I."



"BUT AFTER A LOT OF COOING AND STROKING I FINALLY MANAGED TO COOL IT. ...

YOU ... YOU MEAN... IT'S REALLY OVER...? THEN I... I DID IT... BUT THIS PLACE... IT'S NOT STORM-HAVEN?

IT'S AN **ASYLUM**, CLIVE, RUN BY A MAN WHO WORKS FOR THE SOVIETS. HE'S BEEN USING THE INMATES AS GUINEA PIGS FOR DRUG EXPERIMENTS.

BUT... I'M NOT AN INMATE...?

NO. HE WANTED TO TEST HIS FINAL PRODUCT, AN HALLUCINOGEN TO INCAPACITATE ENEMY AGENTS--EVEN ENEMY FORCES--AND PREVENT THEM FROM FUNCTIONING.

BUT IT DIDN'T WORK! I FUNCTIONED--ACCOMPLISHED MY MISSION!

YES--LORD KNOWS HOW, BUT YOU CERTAINLY DID.

AND I... I FINALLY MADE SOME MONEY FOR FREELANCE RESTORATIONS--OUR FIRST PAYING JOB--TEN THOUSAND POUNDS!

AH... I'M AFRAID NOT, CLIVE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DID IT! CURTIS LANGELY HIRED ME TO CATCH SCULLERS--AND THERE HE IS!

YES, RESTON... AND HERE CURTIS LANGELY ALSO IS.

"CHI SNATCHED HIM BALD."

EXCEPT THERE IS NO LANGELY--MERELY ANOTHER FACE OF MADNESS, WORN BY SCULLERS.

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, HE HAS WORN MANY SUCH FACES--AND EACH FACE HAS LOOKED UPON YOU AS A MAN TO BE SOMEDAY KILLED.

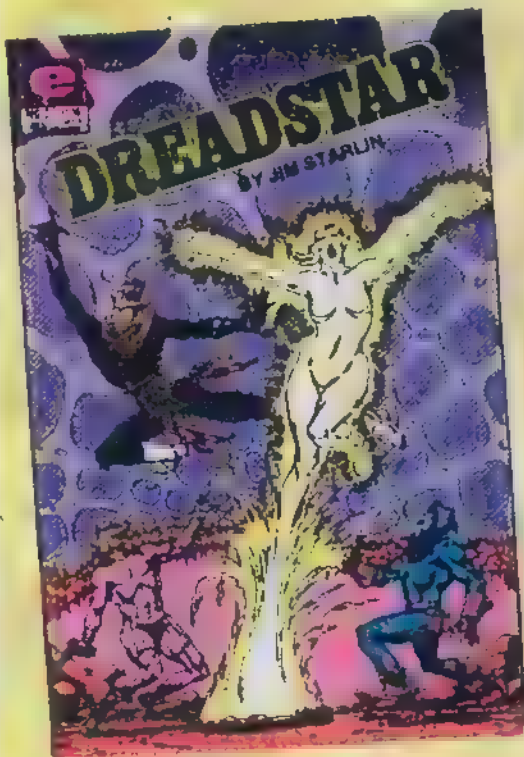
BUT ONLY AFTER HE COULD SOMEHOW DRIVE YOU JUST AS MAD AS HE WAS.

THEN I... I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD...

...TO THINK WE COULD EVER... MAKE SOME MONEYYY...

"IT CAUGHT UP WITH ME--AND, EXCEPT FOR THEIR SUPPORT, I WOULD'VE MASHED MY NOSE IN THE DUST.

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COLUMBIA

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* Offer good on Columbia Pro Am BMX Bikes purchased from participating Columbia Dealers between September 1, 1982 and December 24, 1982. Dealers name must be included or offer is void.

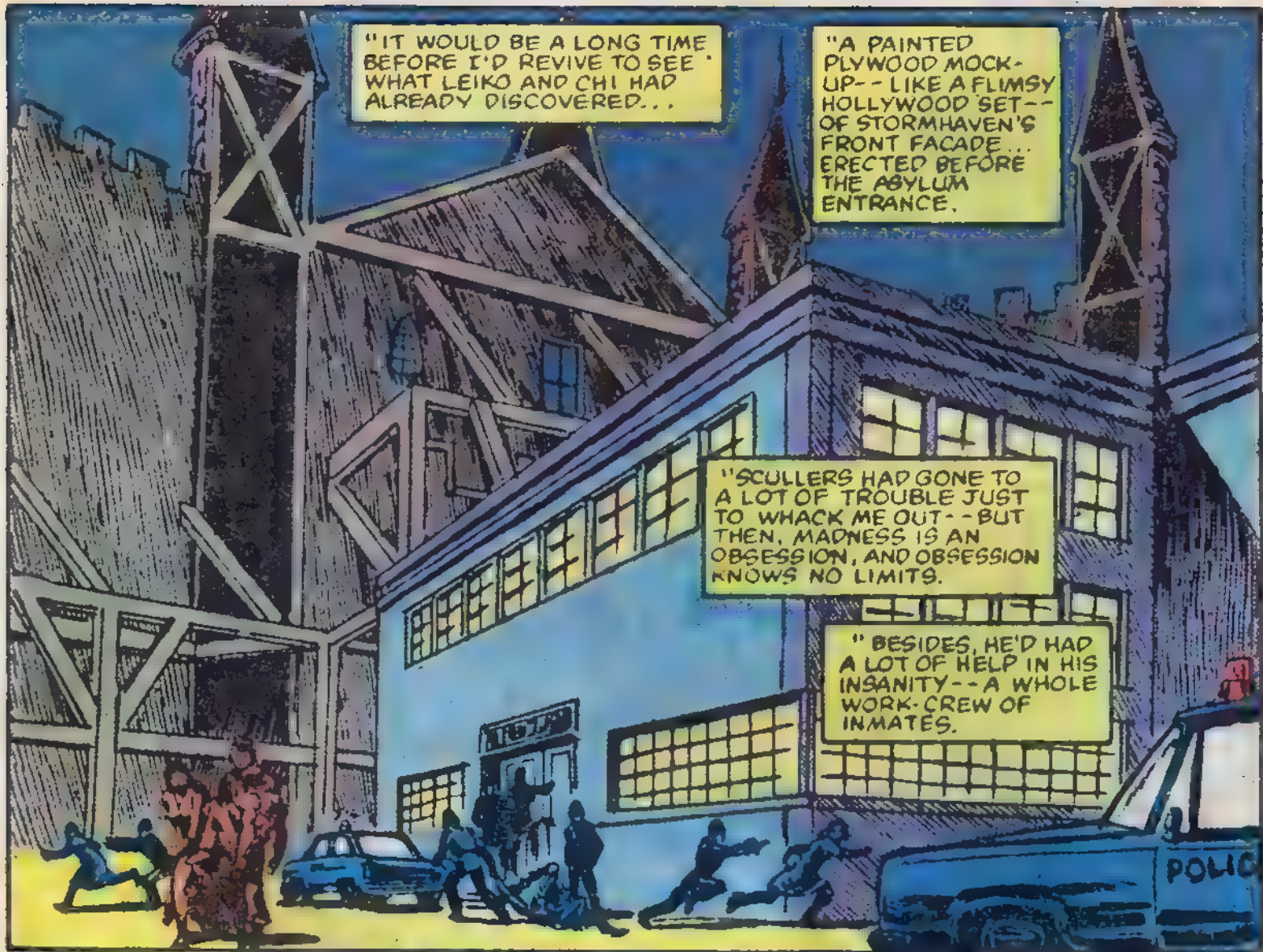


"IT WOULD BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I'D REVIVE TO SEE WHAT LEIKO AND CHI HAD ALREADY DISCOVERED..."

"A PAINTED PLYWOOD MOCK-UP-- LIKE A FLIMSY HOLLYWOOD SET-- OF STORMHAVEN'S FRONT FACADE... ERECTED BEFORE THE ASYLUM ENTRANCE."

"SCULLERS HAD GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE JUST TO WHACK ME OUT-- BUT THEN, MADNESS IS AN OBSESSION, AND OBSESSION KNOWS NO LIMITS."

"BESIDES, HE'D HAD A LOT OF HELP IN HIS INSANITY-- A WHOLE WORK-CREW OF INMATES."



"AND EVEN THOUGH I'M LOATHE TO ADMIT IT NOW, SCULLERS DID SUCCEED TO A CERTAIN DEGREE-- JUST AS I'D HAD MONTHS OF NIGHTMARES AFTER OUR FIRST MEETING, I'D NOW WEAR MY OWN MASK OF MADNESS FOR SOME TIME TO COME..."



"BUT AT LEAST I'VE FINALLY AWAKENED FROM IT, THESE LONG WEEKS LATER, WITH A MIND AS FREE AND CLEAR AS ANY MIND CAN SAID TO BE."

"AND THERE WAS ONE FINAL CONSOLATION -- FAH LO SUEE, I LATER LEARNED, HAD TOLD CHI AND LEIKO THAT SCULLERS PLANNED TO TEST HIS NEW DRUG ON THE BEST AGENT ALIVE."

"AH, BUT WE NIGHTSIDE PIGEONS ALL KNOW BETTER, DON'T WE?"



BYE, FOLKS.

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

IN MEMORIAM: GENE DAY 1951-1982

Early this month (October) Gene Day, Artist on MASTER OF KUNG FU since issue #102 and inker for a year before that, died of a heart attack. He was thirty-one. Gene started in comics in 1974 and joined Marvel in 1977. I first noticed his art and stories in the independently published STAR REACH magazine and was pleased when we later teamed on the STAR WARS comic. Besides his obvious artistic abilities, Gene brought a very genuine enthusiasm to comics. It showed in his detailed rendering approach and in his constant stretching of storytelling techniques and page design. For me, it showed especially in the surprise long distance calls he'd make from his home in Canada to express admiration for a story or pleasure in a given project. It was infectious and, to a twenty year veteran who sometimes tends to be tired or cynical, it was buoying. That, coupled with the knowledge that a promising talent has been cut short with his best work perhaps still before him, is a great loss indeed. I may adjust to it, I won't forget it.

—Archie Goodwin

Dear Editors,

Promotion night has again come and gone at the Sumter School of Martial Arts. Several of the students, myself included, were promoted. The preparations for such a test are long and hard. How did I relax the afternoon of the test? I reread the latest Fu Manchu epic, culminating in issue #118. Let me try to express my multitude of feelings in one word—awesome.

I am the proud owner of a complete collection of MOKF. Why have I waited so long to write? I wanted to read the whole series, then give an overview opinion. This continuing novel is unsurpassed in every area. Period. From the beginning vision of the series provided by Englehart and Starlin, through the early heights scaled by Moench and Gulacy, to the present excellence held by Moench and Day, this series has to be considered as one of Marvel's best. I think it is one of the best in all comics.

Special thanks to Mike Zeck for outstanding art while on MOKF. He continues to shine. Thanks also to the fill-in artists and writers who gave the staff a break. Kudos to the letterers, colorists, editors. Ditto to Stan Lee for the original chance to launch this special magazine. Cat Yronwode, Bill Wu, Marc Nemo, and all the others who have written consistently to Missives deserve thanks also for their insights and direction.

The highest praise must go to Doug Moench, whose writing is a wonderful, adult experience. Doug casts a beautiful light on the still misunderstood martial arts, and I am sure other savants are thankful as well. Issue #118 was a tremendously powerful climax to the epic. Domo.

Darryl R. Vestal
Sumter School of Martial Arts

Dear Editors,

MASTER OF KUNG FU has, for years, been one of the best titles on the market. Not occasionally, not every other issue, but consistently. And your 118th issue is another masterpiece. Lots of tasty action and pretty pictures and tight plotting and deft characterization, yes, but we've gotten used to that. What made this issue an immediate classic was its treatment of the relationship that doesn't exist between Shang-Chi and Fu Manchu. Shang-Chi, the prodigal son, returns to his father's house twice: first to the house of the false father, Fu Manchu, father of his flesh; and, on the final page, to the house of Smith, whom he acknowledges as the father of his advancing spirit. The last we saw coming since issue #15.

Fu Manchu is also to some extent the prodigal father, turning at last to his true son. Shang-Chi is the son of the Celestial Doctor's human loins; human himself, he could never truly be the son of his inhuman father. But the false Shang-Chi was not born of Fu's humanity, but of his evil and corrupt science. He was born, as Shang-Chi was not, the true son of Fu Manchu. It is significant that "my son" is the only name he's given throughout the book.

Of course, this is a comic book, and like most of the genre's masterpieces, its success is tied to the art. Paul Gulacy gave the

book an airy, dreamy quality; Mike Zeck brought it back to earth and made it real. Gene Day has managed to combine, invert, and transcend both qualities. He has given us a close, moody, occasionally (as in #118 and its immediate predecessors) nightmarish intensity. The work of few artists has as much flash as Gene Day's, and the vividness of his vision is unique, perfect, in fact, for the tone you've given the book this year. Thank you.

Kirk D. Massmer
6200 N. Hadgorn Road #8
East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Editors,

After reading MASTER OF KUNG FU #118, I had but two words to say . . . Excellent, Excellent.

Douglas McCartney
385 Edgcombe Avenue
New York, NY 10031

Dear Editors,

I have just finished reading the entire run of MASTER OF KUNG FU for the second time in two years, and it was just as good as the first. MOKF is the only comic currently published that is still worth re-reading in its entire run. This is clearly largely due to the dedication of the creative and editorial staffs.

Doug has guided the characters through their growth and has avoided clichéd plots. Each time Fu Manchu has returned, Shang-Chi reacts with greater hostility towards him, until, now, Shang-Chi literally wants Fu Manchu's blood, which is also his own. Meanwhile, Fu Manchu's power appears to decrease with each defeat he suffers. In the first Fu Manchu epic, Fu had his main base at "the most technologically superior city ever devised by man." In the second epic, his main base lay in a small South American village. Now, in this third epic, Fu's main base is under a graveyard, until he is forced to retreat to his last bastion in Honan, China. In addition his goals have also lessened with each defeat. In the first encounter, he planned to move the moon and rule the world. In the second, he planned to detonate one atom bomb, have the United States and Russia battle, and rule the subsequent remains of the earth. Now Fu is desperately trying simply to stay alive.

Gene Day's art has added immeasurably to the book. The highly-detailed, full-page splash pages are incredible. His use of shadows is interesting and conveys the perfect mood for this series.

Together, Doug and Gene have brought MOKF to new highs in a series that has rarely known a low point.

Tom Tesarek
11409 S. Oakvale
Hopkins, MN 55343

Dear Editors,

I've written many long letters to different comics describing why I enjoy them, but all I have to say here is that MASTER OF KUNG FU is the best comic currently being published. Thank you.

Clem Botelho
46 Follis Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada, M6G-1S3

Dear Editors,

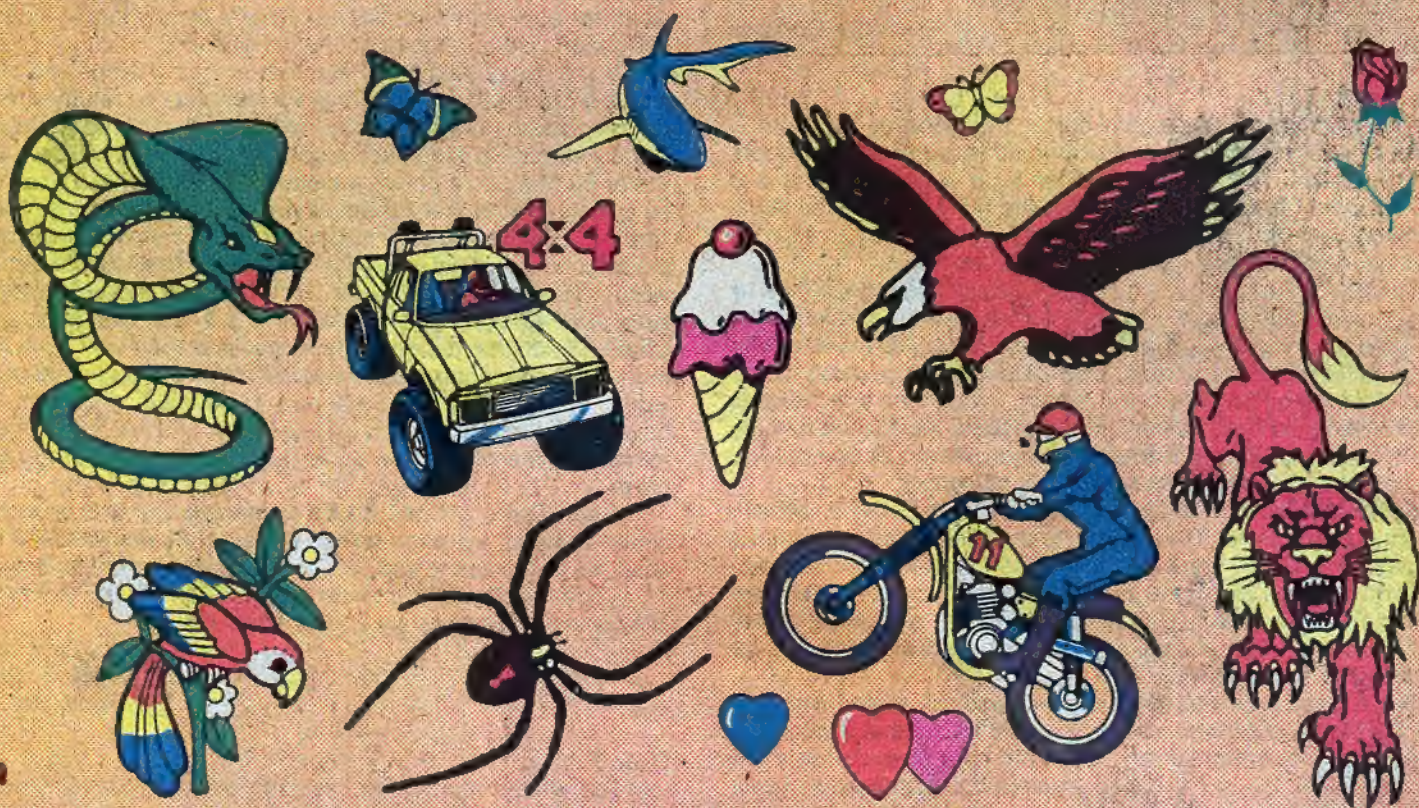
I have just finished reading MASTER OF KUNG FU #118, and I felt I had to write. Though I have been with the master for a long time, this issue has prompted my first letter. After reading and re-reading "Fantasy of the Autumn Moon" in issue #114, I didn't think anything would come along soon to top it in terms of story, characterization, and art work, the latter so incredibly sound that I could find no words to describe it. But, then you come up with #118, "Flesh of My Flesh," and again I am left wordless. The entire three-part saga showed us all what greatness is about.

Anyone who has followed MOKF over the years, as I have, can see and feel that all who work to produce such a beautiful magazine must love the endeavor, viewing it not as labor but as joy! Thank you for many years of greatness. MASTER OF KUNG FU is art, pure art!

Willie J. Walker
1160 W. Woodruff
Toledo, OH 43606

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